

Claims

1. A method in a computer system of transferring data between a client application and a server application, the method comprising the steps of:

storing in a persistent registry a plurality of data formats that the server application supports;

under control of the client application.

retrieving and selecting a stored data format from the persistent registry; and

 sending a request to the server application to
supply data in the selected data format;

under control of the server application.

receiving the request to supply data in the selected data format; and

 sending data in the selected data format to the
client application; and

under control of the client application.

receiving the data sent by the server application.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of retrieving a stored data format retrieves a plurality of data formats and the step of selecting the data format includes:

under control of the client application,

displaying the plurality of retrieved data formats on a display device; and

in response to user input, selecting a displayed data format.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the steps of retrieving a plurality of stored data formats, displaying the retrieved formats, and selecting a displayed format are performed without launching the server application.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of retrieving and selecting a stored data format are performed without launching the server application.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of storing in a persistent registry a plurality of data formats is performed when the server application is loaded onto the computer system.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of storing in a persistent registry a plurality of data formats is performed when the server application is launched.

7. A method in a computer system of transferring data between a client application and a server application, the method comprising the steps of:

storing in a persistent registry a plurality of data formats that the server application supports;

under control of the client application,

retrieving and selecting a stored data format from the persistent registry; and

sending data to the server application in the selected data format; and

under control of the server application,

receiving the data sent by the client application.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of retrieving a stored data format retrieves a plurality of data formats and the step of selecting the data format includes:

under control of the client application,

displaying the plurality of retrieved data formats on a display device; and

in response to user input, selecting a displayed data format.

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9. The method of claim 8 wherein the steps of retrieving a plurality of stored data formats, displaying the retrieved formats, and selecting a displayed format are performed without launching the server application.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the steps of retrieving and selecting a stored data format are performed without launching the server application.

11. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of storing in a persistent registry a plurality of data formats is performed when the server application is loaded onto the computer system.

12. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of storing in a persistent registry a plurality of data formats is performed when the server application is launched.

13. The method of claim 7 including the steps of:
under control of the server application,
processing the data received from the client application; and
sending the processed data back to the client application; and
under control of the client application,
receiving the processed data sent by the server application.

14. A method in a computer system for a server application to communicate to a client application the data formats it supports, the method comprising the steps of:

storing in a persistent registry a data format that the server application supports for receiving data from the client application;

storing in a persistent registry a data format that the server application supports for sending data to the client application; and

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under control of the client application,

receiving the data sent by the server application.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the step of retrieving a stored data format for receiving data from the client application retrieves a plurality of data formats and the step of selecting the data format includes:

under control of the client application,
displaying the plurality of retrieved data formats for receiving data from the client application on a display device; and
in response to user input, selecting a displayed data format.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the step of retrieving a stored data format for sending data to the client application retrieves a plurality of data formats and the step of selecting the data format includes:

under control of the client application,
displaying the plurality of retrieved data formats for sending data to the client application on a display device; and
in response to user input, selecting a displayed data format.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein the step of retrieving a stored data format for sending data to the client application retrieves a plurality of data formats and the step of selecting the data format includes:

under control of the client application,
displaying the plurality of retrieved data formats for sending data to the client application on a display device; and
in response to user input, selecting a displayed data format.

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19. The method of claim 15 wherein the steps of retrieving and selecting a stored data format are performed without launching the server application.

20. The method of claim 15 wherein the steps of storing in a persistent registry a plurality of data formats for receiving data and storing in a persistent registry a plurality of data formats for sending data are performed when the server application is loaded onto the computer system.

21. The method of claim 15 wherein the steps of storing in a persistent registry a plurality of data formats for receiving data and storing in a persistent registry a plurality of data formats for sending data are performed when the server application is launched.

22. The method of claim 15 wherein when data is to be transferred from the client application to the server application, comprising the steps of:

- under control of the server application,
 - processing the data received from the client application; and
 - sending the processed data back to the client application; and
- under control of the client application,
 - receiving the processed data sent by the server application.

23. A method in a computer system of improving the efficiency of communication between a client application and a server application, the client application executing as a client process and having an address space, the method comprising the steps of:

- storing in a persistent registry the location of an object handler for the server application; and
- under control of the client application,

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retrieving the location of the object handler for the server application;

linking the object handler into the address space of the client process; and

invoking the object handler to process a request.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the steps of retrieving the location of and invoking the object handler are performed without launching the server application.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the step of storing in a persistent registry the location of an object handler is performed when the server application is loaded onto the computer system.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein the step of storing in a persistent registry the location of an object handler is performed when the server application is launched.

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